

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 01711 020930Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 IO-13 /064 W  
-----020953 109068 /12

O R 020900Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2412  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1711

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, KS  
SUBJECT: INCIDENT AT PRAYER MEETING IN KNCC BUILDING ON MARCH 1

REF: SEOUL 1666

SUMMARY. INDEPENDENCE DAY MARKED BY TENSION AND HEAVY  
POLICE SURVEILLANCE BUT ONLY TWO MINOR INCIDENTS. END SUMMARY

1. INDEPENDENCE DAY MARCH 1, WHICH WAS ALSO ANNIVERSARY OF  
MYONGDONG DECLARATION, SAW EXTRAORDINARY DISPLAY OF POLICE  
PRESENCE IN SEOUL AND MAJOR CITIES THROUGHOUT REPUBLIC BUT  
NO MAJOR INCIDENTS DEVELOPED. SO FAR ONLY TWO CASES PHYSICAL  
CONFRONTATION HAVE BEEN REPORTED. ONE IN KWANGJU CONSISTED  
OF A MINOR SHOVING MATCH BETWEEN POLICE AND YOUTHS OUTSIDE  
A CHURCH WITH NO CASUALTIES OR ARRESTS. THE OTHER IN SEOUL  
(REPORTED REFTEL) INVOLVED POLICE MANHANDLING TWO WOMEN  
ASSOCIATED WITH MYONGDONGCASE -- MISS YI U CHONG AND MRS.  
MUN IK-HWAN.

2. PRAYER MEETING HELD IN MYONGDONG CATHEDRAL EVENING  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 01711 020930Z

OF MARCH 1 WENT OFF QUIETLY, ALTHOUGH STRONG STATEMENTS  
CALLING FOR RELEASE MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS AND RENEWAL OF  
DEMOCRACY WERE MADE. IT WAS ANNOUNCED AT MEETING THAT  
13 PRIESTS FROM OUTSIDE SEOUL WHO HAD WISHED TO ATTEND  
MEETING HAD BEEN PREVENTED FROM DOING SO BY POLICE. EMBOFF  
CHECKED WITH CARDINAL'S OFFICE AFTERNOON MARCH 2 TO CONFIRM  
CHURCH'S UNDERSTANDING THAT PRIESTS IN QUESTION ARE NOT

BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED BUT IMPEDED FROM PARTICIPATION AT MEETING. THEY ARE NOT BELIEVED TO BE IN CUSTODY NOW.

3. MOST STRIKING ASPECT OF DAY'S EVENTS WAS WEIGHT AND THOROUGHNESS OF POLICE SURVEILLANCE. ALL MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS NOT INCARCERATED AND FAMILIES OF MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS WERE WATCHED CLOSELY. AT TIMES ACCESS TO THEM BY VISITORS WAS CUT OFF OR THEY WERE PREVENTED FROM LEAVING THEIR HOMES. AT OTHER TIMES THEY WERE PERMITTED TO ATTEND MEETINGS ALTHOUGH POLICE ACCOMPANIED THEM.

4. KNCC HAS COMPILED LIST OF 35 PERSONS WHO ARE UNDER INTENSIVE SURVEILLANCE. KIM KWAN SUK, SEC GEN KNCC, HAS MADE ORAL PROTEST TO KCIA OFFICIAL AND HAS PROMISED THAT KNCC WILL FOLLOW UP WITH FORMAL PUBLIC PROTEST IF THIS "INHUMANE" PRESSURE CONTINUED. KCIA OFFICIAL SAID HE THOUGHT DEGREE OF SURVEILLANCE WOULD PROBABLY BE RELAXED SOON AND INVITED KIM TO DISCUSSION OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. KIM SAID HE REFUSED TO MEET WITH ANY ROKG OFFICIALS UNTIL SURVEILLANCE RELAXED.

5. MRS. FAYE MUN (MRS. MUN TONG-HWAN) REPORTS THAT SHE DID NOT GO TO HER HOME ON EVENING OF FEBRUARY 28, BUT THAT NEIGHBORS LATER TOLD HER THAT POLICE WERE IN THE VICINITY OF HER HOUSE. MRS. MUN WAS, HOWEVER, NEITHER DETAINED NOR IMPEDED IN HER MOVEMENTS AS OTHER RELATIVES OF DEFENDANTS WERE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 01711 020930Z

6. COMMENT: POLICE ALERT LIKELY TO CONTINUE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS ALTHOUGH NOT AT LEVEL DISPLAYED MARCH 1. POLICE ARE DEMONSTRATING THEIR DETERMINATION AND APPEAR TO BE DISCOURAGING BREACHES OF PUBLIC ORDER. AT SAME TIME THERE IS RISK THAT BY ITS OWN ACTIONS ROKG COULD CONTRIBUTE TO CREATION OF INCIDENT IT MOST HOPES TO AVOID.  
STERN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION, ARRESTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 02-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977SEOUL01711  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770071-0615  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** SEOUL  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t197703100/aaaadkvz.tel  
**Line Count:** 104  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** be3b88ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 SEOUL 1666  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2938645  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INCIDENT AT PRAYER MEETING IN KNCC BUILDING ON MARCH 1  
**TAGS:** SHUM, PINT, KS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/be3b88ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009